

# *In Memoriam*

## Dean James E. Meeks

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## Introduction

This issue of the *Ohio State Law Journal* is dedicated to Dean James E. Meeks, who passed away on October 26, 2017.<sup>1</sup> This dedication is to honor his years of commitment to the Ohio State University. It is also to recognize his commitment to friends and family.

Dean Meeks was born on November 8, 1938. For his undergraduate degree, he attended Oberlin College. Dean Meeks graduated from Columbia Law School in 1963. During his time at Columbia, he served as an editor of the *Columbia Law Review*. After graduation, he clerked on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit for Judge Carl McGowan.

Dean Meeks began his teaching career at the University of Iowa Law School. From 1973 to 1976, he served as associate dean at Iowa. In 1978, he joined the Ohio State University College of Law. He served as dean until 1985 and returned to teaching.

In 1983, Dean Meeks was in a near-fatal automobile accident that left him in a coma for two weeks. He recovered with no memory of the accident. Dean Meeks used that experience to bring torts alive for his students. He also specialized in and taught antitrust law, legal writing, and public utilities. Dean Meeks was pivotal in establishing the Dispute Resolution Program and the *Ohio State Law Journal on Dispute Resolution*. After twenty-eight years of dedication to the law school, Dean Meeks retired in 2005.

Beyond the walls of Moritz, Dean Meeks also played a legal role throughout the Ohio State University. From 1988 to 1991, he served as a special assistant for legal affairs to the university president. In 1985, Dean Meeks helped investigate protocols of the university hospital. Ultimately, this investigation led to the prosecution of a physician guilty of committing homicides in hospitals around the world.

Dean Meeks was a staple of the Ohio State University community. Most importantly though, he was a family man married to the love of his life, Priscilla, for over forty-eight years. Dean Meeks is survived by his wife, two children,

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<sup>1</sup> The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law Faculty, *College Mourns Loss of Former Dean Meeks* (Nov 7, 2017), <https://moritzlaw.osu.edu/briefing-room/faculty/college-mourns-loss-of-former-dean-meeks/> [<https://perma.cc/SK8H-YS6Z>].

and many grandchildren. The *In Memoria* tributes that follow provide a glimpse of Dean Meeks as a mentor and cherished friend to so many.